

Julia's health is not at all good. She had a very severe nervous attack on Wednesday night & thought she was dying for a while but it finally passed off. I sent for Dr. Johnston<sup>2</sup> but he did not get here until half past one o'clock. She is up today again and I hope will not have a repetition.

Old man Dick<sup>3</sup> is quite low & may die any day.

Julia joins me in love to all.

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<sup>1</sup>Forest Home was the name of a plantation in east Lincoln County which had been the residence of Joseph Graham, the family patriarch, in the last years of his life. At this time it was being farmed by William A. Graham, Jr., who later owned and improved it.

<sup>2</sup>Dr. Sidney X. Johnston (1811-1885), a native of Lincoln County whose plantation was included in Gaston County upon its creation in 1846, was a skilled physician who practiced in east Lincoln and Gaston counties. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, he studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Secession Convention but held no other political office. Grant, *Alumni History*, 325; Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County*, 241.

<sup>3</sup>"Old man Dick" was a former Graham slave who had remained at Forest Home after emancipation.

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*William A. Graham to George B. Simpson*

A&H

Hillsboro',  
June 2nd., 1866.

Yours of the 21st. ult. addressed to me at Raleigh, has been forwarded to my residence at this place.

In answer to the inquiries therein contained, I have to state, that I never knew any person of the name of Rich, during the recent Civil War; nor at any other time, except an obscure family in an adjoining County to this, no one of whom would answer the description of the person mentioned by you. Nor was I aware of any secret communication between persons in this State, and the Government of the United States, in 1863, or at any other time.

In common with great body of the Whigs of this State, I was opposed [to] secession, and resisted it with success against all efforts for its adoption, untill the State of Virginia separated herself from the Union, by which act North Carolina was left-isolated among all the States of the South, with a war already commenced, and the only choice left her was, which side she should espouse. It would be tedious to assign the reasons which determined us then, reluctantly and with much embarrassment, to adopt the cause of the other South-